(b) whether Government have taken any decision to make any change in the policy of 'cooling period' fixed for two years after the superannuation;

(c) whether Government officers going on such type of deputation would provide benefit unnecessarily to the concerned companies using their influence and they would be obliged by the companies; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) As per FR 110(a) and FR 111, transfer of a Government servant to foreign service is permissible in certain specified circumstances. In the case of members of All India Services, detailed guidelines on their deputation to constitutional/statutory/autonomous bodies (not controlled by Government), etc. have been issued in December, 2006. The question of framing similar guidelines for Central Government employees is presently under consideration.

(b) In terms of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Amendment Rules, 2006 notified on 23.11.2006 permission will be required for post retirement commercial employment of a retired officer who was a member of a Group A Central Civil Service or held a Group A post if the commercial employment is to be taken up within one year of retirement, in place of two year period, earlier prescribed.

(c) and (d) The guidelines issued in December, 2006 for the All India Services specifically provide that the general principle of public interest shall be the overriding factor in deciding such deputations under this Rule to private bodies.

Granting of fixed tenure for Secretaries

4653. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the causes for having granted a fixed tenure for posts of Secretary of Defence and Secretary of Home;

(b) whether it is a fact that this rule enabled some officials to get a Back-Door extension in service;

(c) in what way the officials made any difference to decision making process or initiate path-breaking administrative decisions to justify a two year extension of service; and

(d) the steps proposed to revert to old system of uniform age of retirement to protect morale of officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) In view of the vital importance of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Home Affairs and to give a reasonable tenure to the officers selected to head these two Ministries, Fundamental Rule 56 has been amended incorporating a proviso that the Central Government may, if it considers necesary in public interest so to do, give extension in service to Defence Secretary and Home Secretary for such period or periods as it may deem proper on a case-to-case basis, subject to the condition that the total term of incumbents of these posts, who are given such extension in service, does not exceed two years. There is no proposal to revert to the old system.

Meeting of Civil Service Officials

4654. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister addressed a meeting of Central Service Officials on 21st April, 2007 and proposed an "Agents of Change" description for bureaucrats and officials, etc.;

(b) the implications of the term "Agents of Change" for Civil Servants;

(c) what would be the method of identifying and selecting "Agents of Change";

(d) whether such "Agents of Change" would have a tenure and performance based pay package;

(e) the steps proposed to carefully review catalytic ideas like "Agents of Change" and "Fixed tenure" for some officials; and

(f) the damage control steps that would be in-built in such experimentation?